



# Spotlight on CTE

*Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and Achievements in Career and Technical Education*

May 2007

## May ~ The Month of CTSO Celebration!

Welcome to our **first** May *Spotlight on CTE* newsletter – a pre-summer summary, you might say! If you missed our announcement, we now publish in May and November, twice during the school year, to better capture state and national conference competition results and reach folks before they disappear for summer and winter breaks.

May means flowers – *winners'* bouquets that is, *and* trophies *and* ribbons *and* spotlights! BPA and DECA just held exciting national conferences, and FCCLA, FFA, HOSA and SkillsUSA meet this summer. Membership is up – the biggest increase **ever** for BPA, and conferences are packed! DECA saw a 16% increase in attendance at their national conference this year. Click on the hotlinks inside this issue for full details on the latest competition results.

With summer upon us, don't forget us – or your camera! We will be looking for CTSO summer leadership events and fun service activities for our Fall issue. Please email stories and pictures to your CTSO state director or Donna Beltz, [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov), by **October 1, 2007**.

Reader feedback is always appreciated, as well. How about emailing us CTE "postcards" over the summer, with fun photos of CTSO students and/or directors "caught" doing something fun and/or good?

Previous issues of this newsletter can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/octp](http://www.michigan.gov/octp). Click on "Career and Technical Education" and scroll down to the bottom of the page for the PDF. Keep on celebrating and have a great and safe summer!

### Inside This Issue...

SkillsUSA Life Membership Awards	2
Student Spotlight	2
Breaking Traditions Award Winners	3
State Leadership Conferences	3
AYES Students Take Top Honors	4
Saginaw Robotics Team	4
The Future Ms. Goodwrench?	4
Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events	5
Davenport University Scholarships	5

## BPA Boasts Large Membership Increase and Successful State Leadership Conference

*Submitted by Maurice S. Henderson, State Director*

Business Professionals of America recorded its largest membership ever during the 2006-2007 school year! Presently, there are 5,410 secondary students and advisors and 192 postsecondary students and advisors. This total of 5,602 members represents an 8.42% increase in membership from the 2005-2006 school year. State Director Maurice S. Henderson states, "This increase in membership indicates that teachers, administrators, students, and parents realize the importance of career and technical student organizations and understand the value they bring to the classroom."

The increase in membership is not the only exciting bonus to the current year for BPA. Michigan BPA celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary during this school year. The theme for the year was "*Prepare. Pursue. Perform.*" which provided an excellent way to demonstrate exactly what the students engage in on a daily basis. Through participation in BPA, they are preparing to take their place in the workforce through pursuing their goals to become productive citizens and by performing and demonstrating the skills they have learned in the classroom.



BPA members celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual State Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on March 22-25, 2007. The four-day event drew 1,862 students, 327 advisors and chaperones, and 60 guests. In addition, more than 125 volunteers from business and industry served as competitive event judges at the conference.

(continued on page 2)

Davenport University played a significant part in the conference by serving as a sponsor for the conference kick-off Thursday special event. They sponsored an entertainment trivia game show called "ThinkFast" managed by TJohn Productions of Grand Rapids. Winners of the trivia game won cash prizes, iPod shuffle mp3 players, and more. Door prizes and scholarships were also awarded to students throughout the evening. During the state conference, students participated in 54 different competitive events, multiple leadership training workshops, and state officer elections. Those students who placed high enough in their respective events represented Michigan at the BPA National Leadership Conference in New York, NY, on May 9-13, 2007.

All of this and more is evidence why participation in the co-curricular BPA program can enhance the classroom instructional setting. For more information on BPA visit: [www.michiganbpa.org](http://www.michiganbpa.org).

## OCTP Director and CTE Director Receive SkillsUSA Award

Patty Cantú, Director of the Office of Career and Technical Preparation and Mike Hoffner, CTE Director of Branch Area Careers Center, Branch Intermediate School District, were presented with the **SkillsUSA Michigan Honorary Life Membership Award** during the Opening General



Session of the 2007 SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference on April 27, in Lansing. SkillsUSA State President, Kimberly LaPan, from Bay-Arenac Career Center and SkillsUSA State Secretary, Fabian Patino from Breithaupt Career Technical Center, presented the awards.

According to Tammy Brown, Michigan SkillsUSA Director, Michigan Honorary Life Membership "is given to individuals who spend an admirable amount of time, patience, and effort on behalf of the organization and go beyond the call of duty" on its behalf.

Congratulations, Patty and Mike!

## Student Spotlight



**Kaylynn Portice**

Family and Consumer Sciences  
Pickford High School

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA),  
Vice President of Community Service

*Submitted by Brad Schmidt, Michigan FCCLA State Coordinator*

Our Spotlight this month is on Kaylynn Portice, an outstanding senior at Pickford High School, in the eastern Upper Peninsula. She believes her Family and Consumer Sciences courses and related experiences have prepared her well for her chosen career field – nonprofit association management. She grew from being an active participant in all of her Family and Consumer Sciences classes to become a student officer in FCCLA, the related career and technical student organization

Kaylynn plans to attend Aquinas College in Grand Rapids next fall to study Political Science and Community Leadership. Community Leadership is a business degree that encourages businesses to incorporate community service and community involvement into their day-to-day operations.

Throughout high school, Kaylynn has been involved with many community service projects through her FCCLA chapter. Two that stand out the most are the *24 Hour Homeless Camp Out* – where she and other students spent 24 hours living in a cardboard box at the local gas station, raising both money for the homeless and awareness in the community; and the annual *Christmas service project* that raised money to provide needy families with everything they need for a memorable Christmas.

Kaylynn believes that the skills she learned in her Family and Consumer Sciences classes are some of the most useful things that she's learned. She says that the communication skills, dining etiquette, interviewing skills, and leadership experiences are things that no young person should be without. Her experiences with FCCLA also have shown her how to meet new people and step out of her comfort zone.

Kaylynn was quick to point out that this has helped her to grow as a person and has prepared her to enter the workforce with the confidence that she has an edge over other candidates without her experiences. We certainly agree, and expect to hear more about Kaylynn one day!

For more information on FCCLA, click on [www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org).

## 2007 Breaking Traditions Recognition Award Winners



At an award ceremony in Lansing on May 8, 2007, OCTP honored 24 outstanding Career and Technical Education students by presenting them with the *2007 Breaking Traditions Awards*, for pursuing careers that are nontraditional for their gender. With great determination and persistence, these courageous young men and women overcame significant challenges, made remarkable accomplishments, and excelled in achieving their career goals. Two students received Breaking Traditions Recognition Awards, the top award. Both are CTSO members – of course! .

**Brandon Burris** ~ An accident, six surgeries, a skin graft, and other hospital treatments helped Brandon realize the importance and value of health care providers. A senior in the Health Technology and Medical Science program at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, Brandon plans to become a physician's assistant, specializing in Pediatric Cardiology.

Brandon is an honor student, member of the National Honor Society, Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), where he serves as State Secretary, peer mediator, and recipient of the Bay Regional Medical Center Orchid Award. He has been Student of the Year, received perfect attendance awards, and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in HOSA Creative Problem Solving. Through his HOSA activities, he has become a peer mentor to other Native American students interested in health careers.

Brandon plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University, majoring in pre-med and biochemistry, while concurrently enrolled in the EMT-P course. Eventually, he plans to pursue his Physician Assistant training at Wayne State University or Michigan State University.

**Luana Welsh** ~ An outstanding Construction Trades program student and SkillsUSA member, Luana Welsh would like to own her own building and home design business someday. Her Construction Trades instructor at the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center describes her as an exceptional student with a positive attitude and a "never give up" personality. He says that her approach to learning in this trade has sent the signal to his male students that "they need to step up or step out of her way!"

She has been the leader of the drywall quality-control team, competed in SkillsUSA Electrical competition this year, and volunteered for "Tenth-Grader Day" to encourage other females to consider Construction Trades at the Center. She is eligible for 18 college credits, as well as *Sky Trak* certification. Luana is

an honor student with perfect attendance, managing a time-consuming commute each morning to be a part of the program, yet arrives each day on time.

Luana plans to attend Delta College, majoring in residential construction or wiring, and is also looking for an apprenticeship opportunity. She credits her Construction Trades program for giving her hope for the future, inspiration to continue her education, and confidence that this is something that she wants to pursue for the rest of her life.

In addition to the two top Breaking Traditions Recognition Award winners, 10 outstanding CTE students received Breaking Traditions Merit Awards, and 12 received Breaking Traditions Certificate Awards.

Congratulations to all!

## State Leadership Conferences

Michigan FFA held their 2007 State Leadership Conference at MSU, March 7-9, and their Agriscience Skills Competitions there on April 20. For full State Leadership Competition Results, including Gold, Silver and Bronze Award Winners and award-winning team rosters, click on:  
[www.michiganffa.com/association/contest/leadership/state\\_leadership\\_2007.shtml](http://www.michiganffa.com/association/contest/leadership/state_leadership_2007.shtml).

In the Senior Agriscience Skills Competition, 14 Gold Awards and 11 Silver Awards were presented, in addition to the 16 State Award-winning Teams and Chapters and Alternate Winners listed below. For the full list, including team rosters, click on:  
[www.michiganffa.com/association/contest/skills/Final%20Results%20-%202007.doc](http://www.michiganffa.com/association/contest/skills/Final%20Results%20-%202007.doc).

### More State Competition Results!

For a full list of State Conference winners, great photos, and fun stories, click on the links below. See their homepages for information on upcoming conferences and great scholarship opportunities.

#### BPA:

[www.michiganbpa.org/files/SLC\\_2007MichiganBPASList.pdf](http://www.michiganbpa.org/files/SLC_2007MichiganBPASList.pdf)

#### DECA:

[http://mideca.org/SCDC/winners\\_07.htm](http://mideca.org/SCDC/winners_07.htm)

<http://mideca.org/students/icdcwinners.htm> (Int'l Conf.)

#### SkillsUSA:

[www.miskillsusa.org](http://www.miskillsusa.org).

#### HOSA:

[www.michianhosa.org/images/Finalists.xls](http://www.michianhosa.org/images/Finalists.xls)

#### FCCLA:

[www.mifccla.org/meetings/slm\\_winners\\_2007.htm](http://www.mifccla.org/meetings/slm_winners_2007.htm)

Congratulations to all the award winners and their leaders, directors, teachers, parents, mentors, and the behind-the-scene support personnel who helped make it all possible!



## AYES Students Take Top Honors

*From the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association (MADA) News, May 4, 2007*

MADA would like to congratulate AYES students Alex Dobroy and Zachary Hastings, seniors at Saline High School, who took first place in the Michigan state finals of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition.

The Saline team was the quickest to diagnose and fix nine electrical and mechanical “bugs” that were deliberately placed in their competition vehicle by Ford engineers. For their win, the team will be awarded more than \$45,000 in scholarship prizes and automotive merchandise. They will also go to Dearborn on June 26 to represent Michigan in the national competition. Runners-up in the competition were the team of Joshua Hoekstra and Jeremy Winget, seniors at Kent Career Technical Center – also an AYES school.

The annual Student Auto Skills Competition was sponsored by Ford Motor Company and AAA as part of their ongoing effort to encourage talented high school students to pursue careers as automotive technicians. For more information, visit: Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition at: [www.autoskills.com](http://www.autoskills.com).

## Saginaw Robotics Team

*Excerpted from release submitted by Karen Abate and Bruce Isotalo*



FIRST Robotics Team 703 “Phoenix” defeated three national champions to bring home the Gold for one of the toughest regional competitions in the country! Team 703 “Phoenix,” representing the Saginaw Career Complex and their partners, finished first in a field of 64 teams from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Brazil in the West Michigan Regional at Grand Valley State University on March 30 and 31. This was a first ever regional win for the Career Complex team.

Finishing the qualifying matches, seeded fifth, Saginaw’s “Phoenix” invited 19<sup>th</sup> seed “Las Guerrillas” from Bloomfield Hills and the 21<sup>st</sup> seed “Goodrich Martians” to be their alliance partners. “Phoenix,” along with these other teams, then headed for the FIRST National Robotics Championships, at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on April 12-14.

This year’s FIRST Robotic Competition Game was called “Rack’n’Roll”. The goal was to build a robot that could pick up inner tubes and hang them on a tower of swaying posts while keeping the competitors’ robots from doing the same thing, with bonus points given for elevating partner robots above the playing field at the end of each match.

Team 703 is sponsored by DELPHI and team members are from various area high schools. The team, which meets at the Saginaw Career Complex, designed and built a robot, which proved to be a defensive powerhouse. The students constructed their robot with a unique 14-wheeled drive system, topped with ramps. These ramps, when opened to their full 16-foot wingspan, could support two partner robots 12” above the playing field, garnering them 60 bonus points. Bruce Isotalo, team 703 coach and Engineering Instructor at the Career Complex, educated students on how to fabricate strong, yet lightweight folding ramps using carbon fiber composite, the same material used in aircraft and high performance race cars.

These teams, along with over 300 others, competed in the FIRST Robotics National Championships. A NASA webcast in real time on April 12-14 transmitted all the action from the floor of the Georgia Dome. Their alliance team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 84 alliance teams in the Galileo Division, one of four championship divisions. Team 703 Phoenix thanked their alliance partner teams 1712 “Dawgma” and 2056 “Patriotics” for the win, and for what team member Chris Bale called “an awesome experience” in Atlanta. Well said and well done, Team 703. Congratulations!

Visit: <http://robotics.nasa.gov/events/first.php>  
[www2.usfirst.org/2007comp/events/MI/awards.html](http://www2.usfirst.org/2007comp/events/MI/awards.html)  
[www2.usfirst.org/2007comp/events/MI/rankings.html](http://www2.usfirst.org/2007comp/events/MI/rankings.html)

## The Future Ms. Goodwrench?

*Excerpted from April 26, 2007 Detroit News*

Katy Younglove hopes to someday make a name for herself as Ms. Goodwrench. The 18-year-old from Monroe, was the first female to compete in the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition and her team came in third, [The Detroit News](http://www.detroitnews.com) reported in a story over the weekend. Her partner on the team was classmate Craig Suydam, also a senior at Monroe High School. “I was really excited when I found out I was going to be the first female to ever be in the contest,” she tells the publication. “I really wanted to show everyone what I can do.” Robert Kaczor, the assistant vice president of automotive services for AAA Michigan and AAA Chicago, said Younglove’s participation in the contest will hopefully start a trend. “You don’t find too many women in the auto repair and service field,” he said. “But it’s nice too see Katy here. I think that this provides an opportunity to bring more diversity into the auto service industry.”

Click on the following link to see the full story:  
[www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070426/METRO03/704260441/1148](http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070426/METRO03/704260441/1148)

## Davenport University Awards Over \$650,000 in Scholarships

Davenport University representatives proudly presented \$653,400 in scholarships to thirty-five Van Buren Technology Center students on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at the Van Buren Technology Center, Van Buren Intermediate School District. Joining the students for the presentation were all their Business Professionals of America (BPA) Advisors.



Davenport University consistently hosts BPA regional and state conferences. "BPA is most grateful for their support", according to State BPA Director, Maurice Henderson, "and their continued support and involvement in BPA events planned for the upcoming school year is most appreciated."

### W.A. Lettinga Charter Scholarship – 4-Year/Full -Ride \$50,000 each

Scott Bailey – Decatur Public Schools  
 Alex Gin – South Haven Public Schools  
 Matthew Johnson – Mattawan Public Schools  
 Kristopher Phillips – Paw Paw Public Schools  
 Leah Thrash – South Haven Public Schools

### BPA Champion Scholarship - \$5,000 per year, renewable 4-year - \$20,000

Brian Beach – Bangor Public Schools

### Platinum Scholarship - \$5,000 per year, renewable 4 year

### BPA Scholarships - \$2,000 per year, renewable 4 year \$28,000 each

Justin Cook – Bloomingdale Public Schools  
 Stephanie Kiewiet, Justin Kucarak, and Seth Winchester – Paw Paw Public Schools

Pierce Lonsbery – Marcellus Public Schools

Jace Toney – South Haven Public Schools

### BPA Scholarships - \$2,000 per year, renewable 4 year \$8,000 each

Bangor Public Schools - Matthew Copenhaver, Deborah Davidson, Alec Johnson, Brandy Key

Bloomingdale Public Schools - Mitchell Penrod-Davidson

Decatur Public Schools - Joshua Parish

Gobles Public Schools - Brittany Burza

Hartford Public Schools - Alan Herriman

Lawton Public Schools - Jessica Crocker, Matthew Martin and Charles Powers

Mattawan Public Schools - Mary DeWaters, Austin Downing and Dylan Ledbetter

Paw Paw Public Schools - Tyler Fleckenstein, Mason Monroe, Carl Oldham, Tyler Schebek, Daniel Smith, Dane White

South Haven Public Schools - Wade Kaptur

Watervliet Public Schools - Darren Lane, Lydia Williams

This is a wonderful example of recognition and support from our higher education and business and community partners, demonstrating that Career and Technical Education programs truly promote postsecondary education. We at OCTP are very proud of these Business Management, Marketing and Technology students and are confident they will be successful in their chosen careers.

### 2007-08 Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events

#### BPA: [www.michiganbpa.org](http://www.michiganbpa.org)

May 19-22 CTSO State Officer Training Workshop, EMU, Ypsilanti

March 13-16 2008 BPA State Leadership Conference, Grand Rapids

#### DECA: [www.mideca.org](http://www.mideca.org)

October 15-16 State Leadership Conference, Lansing

FFCLA: [www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org) (great scholarship links at this website)

July 8-12 National Leadership Meeting, Anaheim, CA

November 5 Fall Leadership Workshop, CMU

November 6 Fall Leadership Workshop, EMU

November 7 Fall Leadership Workshop, Lake Superior State U

April 9-11, 2008 State Leadership Meeting

#### FFA: [www.michiganffa.com](http://www.michiganffa.com)

July 12-13 State Leadership Conference for Chapter & Regional Officers, MSU

Oct. 24-27 National FFA Convention, Indianapolis

#### HOSA: [www.michianhosa.org](http://www.michianhosa.org)

June 20-23 30<sup>th</sup> National Leadership Conference, Orlando

#### SkillsUSA: [www.miskillsusa.org](http://www.miskillsusa.org)

June 24-30 National Leadership Conference and National Skills Championships, Kansas City, MO

## State CTSO Director's Corner

### Articles/Submissions Due:

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State CTSO directors **only**, please submit articles using the Newsletter Response Form. Please e-mail submissions to Donna Beltz, Editor, at [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov). Thank you

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